

Register results

The following actions have been taken by Federal agencies. They have previously been summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. Extent of consumer comment is reported when such information is available.

- **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF)** has amended its labeling regulations to permit liquor manufacturers put certain information on wrappers of individual cartons of wine & distilled spirits. BATF received 3 comments on the proposal. One from a distillery corporation supported the proposal & said consumers would probably benefit from more pertinent information on the cartons. Two related trade associations in London, England, objected to the proposed regulations & asked for a hearing. Hearing was denied. Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 29, page 47425; Aug. 26, page 36029. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 15.

- **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** has issued revised physician labeling for oral contraceptive drug products. FDA received 43 comments on the proposed draft labeling from doctors, professional societies, drug manufacturers & consumers. (See proposal on patient labeling in this issue of CONSUMER REGISTER.) Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 7, page 53633; Oct. 24, 1975, page 49813. CONSUMER REGISTER: Nov. 15, 1975.

Buses for elderly & handicapped

Transportation Dept's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) has completed its requirements for new standard, full-size urban transit buses to be used principally for normal city service. However, these buses must have special features to make it easier for handicapped & elderly persons to get around.

Rule specifies floor height, vertical distance from curb to first floor door step, tread depth of steps & riser height for front steps. Requirements for wheel chair accessibility will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Effective date is February 15, 1977.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 18, page 45842; Aug. 2, page 32286. CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 15, 1975.

Mechanically deboned meat

Agriculture Dept. has formally "removed from the books" the interim regulations that permitted the use of mechanically deboned meat (MDM) & low temperature rendered meat in hot dogs & various kinds of sausage. A court ruling [CONSUMER NEWS: Oct. 1] ordered producers to stop using MDM.

Agriculture is still considering what action to take on its proposed regulations that would provide for the use of MDM & low temperature rendered meat.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 5, page 48743. CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15.

Combination meat products (cont.)

Agriculture Dept. has withdrawn its interim regulations that provided a standard for combinations of cured cuts of meat with nonmeat protein sources—such as soy protein. Agriculture says virtually no such products have been prepared since the interim standards went into effect, & if any are prepared in the future, they can be considered for approval then—with appropriate labeling.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 16, page 50450; May 28, page 21760. CONSUMER REGISTER: July 15.

Citizen participation—FPC

Jan. 5, 1977, is deadline for comments on **Federal Power Commission's (FPC)** proposed rule changes that open agency meetings to the public. Although FPC has been holding public meetings since last April, it is now setting forth its policy formally to implement a section of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 52303. Send comments to Federal Power Commission, Washington, DC 20426.

Student loans

Jan. 5, 1977, is deadline for comments on **Office of Education's (OE)** proposal to revise requirements & guidelines for guaranteed student loans that are authorized by an amendment to Title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Proposal includes establishing an escrow agent to pay out money to the students in installments. OE says using an escrow agent would cut Federal costs, ensure accurate & up-to-date data on student enrollment & protect borrowers from excessive repayment obligations.

For more information, write to Office of Guaranteed Student Loans, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, DC 20202.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 5, page 48862. Send comments to Associate Commissioner, Office of Guaranteed Student Loans, Office of Education, Washington, DC 20202.

Aerosols

Jan. 25 is deadline for comments on **Food & Drug Administration's (FDA)** proposals to (1) require warning labels on aerosol-packaged products containing certain fluorocarbons (more precisely called fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons) & (2) eventually phase out all nonessential uses of those fluorocarbons.

FDA said proposed label warning would affect about one billion of the estimated 2.4 billion self-pressurized containers sold in the US annually. Remainder of the containers either do not contain the fluorocarbon or are products not regulated by FDA.

Ever since some scientists speculated that fluorocarbons released by aerosols may be threatening the earth's ozone layer, government agencies have been studying the problem—and now scientific reports confirm the adverse environmental effects. Before that, the use of vinyl chloride as a propellant was banned by the agencies that had jurisdiction over pesticides & household products—as well as food, drugs & cosmetics.

Proposals include:

- A package labeling warning statement on foods, over-the-counter (OTC) human drugs, animal drugs, cosmetics & non-restricted medical devices in aerosol containers that contain certain fluorocarbons. Purpose of this rule is to let customers know the fluorocarbons may harm the public health & environment by reducing stratospheric ozone. Proposed warning, which is intended as a short-term measure to encourage consumers to find alternative products, says:

"Warning. Contains a chlorofluorocarbon that may harm the public health & environment by reducing ozone in the upper atmosphere."

Label warning would not be required for prescription

drugs or OTC products used for asthma sufferers. In addition, products already in stores or in shipment before the effective date of label requirements would not have to be recalled or labeled.

• Notice that FDA intends to phase out all nonessential uses of fluorocarbon propellants it regulates. FDA says the phaseout will not involve product recalls. FDA emphasized that "the phaseout program for removing the suspect propellants from food, drugs & cosmetics would be developed on the basis of reasonable regulation & minimum cost to consumers."

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 26, page 52070. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

The pill

Feb. 7 is deadline for comments on **Food & Drug Administration's** (FDA) proposal to change requirements for patient labeling for oral contraceptives (the pill).

Present regulations require that patient package information be given to each patient when the drug is dispensed & that a more detailed booklet be made available to a patient—if she asks her doctor for it. However, consumer groups & individual consumers have complained that current patient labeling does not contain enough information—and a 1975 FDA survey showed that a large percentage of the users wanted more information on the pill's side effects, along with more warnings & precautions. Now that new physician labeling has been approved, FDA is revising patient labeling to conform.

Proposed amendments would require that patient labeling contain, in plain English, information on the many aspects of the pill. This information would be in 2 parts: (1) a brief summary of the information that would be included in the package & (2) a longer, separate leaflet that would also be included in the package. FDA says having the brief summary may result in some patients "reading only the summary & ignoring the longer labeling piece" & would like comments on this aspect of the proposal.

Information the labels would have to contain include statements such as:

- The pill is effective, but deviations from recommended doses increase the chance of pregnancy.
- Patients taking the pill should be under the continued supervision of a doctor.
- Serious side effects include strokes, fetal abnormalities, gallbladder disease & thrombophlebitis.
- Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, weight change & breast tenderness.
- Oral contraceptives do not prevent or treat venereal disease.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 7, page 53630; Oct. 24, 1975, page 49813. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: Nov. 15, 1975. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852. Refer to Docket #76N-0487.

Stolen cars

Feb. 15, 1977, is deadline for comments on **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's** (NHTSA) proposal to increase highway safety by setting up additional procedures to make cars more theft-proof. Government studies show that stolen vehicles are involved in accidents at a disproportionate rate & that almost one million vehicles were stolen in 1974.

NHTSA already has a standard that requires passenger

cars to have a key-locking system with a warning buzzer [*CONSUMER REGISTER*: March 15] & another standard that provides each passenger car with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). NHTSA wants to strengthen both of these standards.

New proposal sets uniform procedures to be adopted by the states for the titling of cars & for disposition of titles after cars are sold for salvage.

Under the proposal, states would require each car to have a certificate of title before it could be registered for operation in the state. In addition, proposal would make it more difficult to secure clean titles for stolen vehicles & would provide an opportunity to examine the safety of reconstructed vehicles before they could be re-registered for use on the highways.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 22, page 51426. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590; phone: 202-426-2768. Refer to Docket #76-07.

Hearings & meetings

• **USED CARS** (correction)—**Federal Trade Commission's** (FTC) scheduled hearings on disclosure requirements for used car dealers [*CONSUMER REGISTER*: Oct. 1] listed some telephone numbers that had been changed or could not be dialed by consumers. Correct listings follow (all hearings start at 9:30 a.m.):

Dec. 6
Room 307, Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02114
(To speak, write or call: Arthur Levine, 1301 Analax Bldg., 150 Causeway, Boston, MA 02114; phone: 617-223-6621. 223-6621.)

Jan 10, 1977
31st Floor, Celebreze Federal Bldg.
1240 East 9th St.
Cleveland, OH 44199
(To speak, write or call: Sharon Devine at above address by Dec. 20; phone: 216-522-4207.)

Feb. 7, 1977
Suit 2665, Federal Trade Commission Bldg.
2001 Bryan St.
Dallas, TX 75201
(To speak, write or call: Andrew Armstrong at above address by Jan 17, 1977; phone: 214-749-3056.)

March 7, 1977
Room 13112, Federal Bldg.
11000 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(To speak, write or call: Jesus Martinez at above address by Feb. 14, 1977; phone: 213-824-7575.)

March 28, 1977
Room 12138, Federal Bldg.
450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(To speak, write or call: George K. Choi at above address by March 7, 1977; phone: 415-556-1270.)

April 25, 1977
Room 332 Federal Trade Commission Bldg.
6th & Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20680
(To speak, write or call: Matthew Daynard at above address by April 4, 1977; phone: 202-523-3935.)

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Rate Register

Mail

• Jan. 7 is deadline for comments on Postal Service's (PS) proposal to improve its procedures for handling mail that cannot be delivered to consumers because it has become unwrapped or otherwise damaged. Proposed regulations become effective immediately on an interim basis, but PS will consider comments it receives before taking final action. Under the interim regulations, PS will (1) open undeliverable mail as early as possible in order to identify mailer or addressee; (2) hold undeliverable articles for 30 days (instead of 60 days); (3) require clearer proof of ownership before sending mail back to manufacturers; (4) not charge additional postage for forwarding or return of loose mail which was prepaid at the time of mailing; & (5) reorganize dead parcel service areas to coincide with bulk mail service areas. PS hopes to conserve storage space & save PS employees time.

First class mail is not affected by this regulation.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 8, page 53677. Send comments to Director, Office of Mail Classification, Rates & Classification Dept. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260.

Freight

• On Dec. 1, Council on Wage & Price Stability (CWPS) asked Interstate Commerce Commission, which regulates rates for interstate moving of household goods, to change its regulations to make the cost of household moves less costly. (In Sep-

(Continued next page)

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Rate Register

(continued)

tember, ICC announced that it was considering eliminating or modifying its requirement that household movers provide consumers an estimate (that is not binding on the mover) of the cost of shipping the goods—because the commission had received many complaints about inaccurate estimates [CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 11].

CWFS recommends pricing flexibility for the household moving industry by allowing movers to give firm estimates for consumers to accept—or let the consumers accept the ICC-regulated rate. CWFS says this flexibility would stimulate price competition. In addition, the Council suggests that movers be allowed to quote rates within a fixed percentage deviation around the existing rate.

Planes

● On Dec. 9, the **US Court of Appeals** ruled that **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** had no right to reject **World Airways'** proposal of April 2, 1975, to offer an \$89 one-way, coast-to-coast fare. CAB rejected the application early this year on the grounds that **World Airways** is a charter carrier & that CAB has no authority to let such carriers provide regularly scheduled service [RATE REGISTER: April 15, 1975 & Feb. 1, 1976]. Court said CAB does have such authority & should have considered the merits of **World Airways'** application. Proposal is now being sent back to CAB for such consideration.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has suspended a 2% air fare increase proposed by TransWorld Airlines, Frontier Airlines & United Airlines. If approved, the increase would have gone into effect Jan. 15. When CAB obtains more information on the airlines' return on investment, it will decide what to do about the proposal.

• **United Airlines asked Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** & California Public Utilities Commission for permission to equalize interstate & intrastate fares in California. Request is result of CAB's rule that airlines flying across state lines must charge all passengers the same fare for the specific part of a flight that takes place solely within one state. **RATE REGISTER: July 15l.**

• **One of Civil Aeronautics Board's (CAB) Administrative Law Judges** has told **TransWorld Airlines** that its "on time" advertising campaign is without substantiation. Initial decision includes a cease & desist order & \$1.6 million in corrective advertising on the part of TWA.

